

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 953

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mike and Marquita Stevens upon their receipt of Sertoma's Lifetime of Love Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated their time and energies to helping others; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Marquita Stevens are two such exemplary persons, who have been honored with Sertoma's Lifetime of Love Award for their enduring commitment to serving the needs of their community; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Marquita Stevens will receive this prestigious honor from Sertoma during a special ceremony on February 3, 2022, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Sertoma's Lifetime of Love Award is presented to a member of the community that embodies the mission of the organization, which is to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the Stevenses' Mike Stevens Homes has been one of Knoxville's finest custom design-build home builders for more than three decades; the family-owned construction company specializes in development, building neighborhoods, and custom home building throughout the greater Knoxville area; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stevens Homes partnered with WBIR in 2011 for The Labor of Love Project with Helen and Ellen Ash and the Love Kitchen and has a continued relationship with WBIR and Labor of Love projects, including the Sertoma Center, which provides residential housing for adults with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Mike Stevens Homes teamed with Sertoma by building beautiful new homes at a tremendous cost savings to Sertoma; these new homes ultimately provide a quality "forever home" to many of the people Sertoma has supported and allows the organization to grow and support more individuals; while Mike coordinating the building of the project, Marquita coordinated the interior design and decorating; and

WHEREAS, currently, Mike Stevens Homes is involved in Sertoma's most ambitious remodel of its oldest group home; when completed, the renovated home will consist of three separate living units and provide a more efficient and higher quality living space for up to twelve individuals; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Marquita Stevens have also worked on countless Habitat for Humanity homes and volunteered to raise money and build more than 100 homes in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stevens Homes was recently honored by *Southern Living* magazine as one of an exclusive group of builders chosen for the *Southern Living* Custom Builder Program, and Mike and Marquita Stevens utilized that platform to promote Sertoma and other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stevens Homes has built four new duplexes and remodeled four others, built \$6.4 million in Sertoma assets, saved over \$1 million in building costs, and impacted the lives of sixty people served by Sertoma by delivering brand new homes; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stevens began his remarkable building career as a carpenter-subcontractor, then superintendent, followed by general contractor and land developer; a few of his notable professional achievements include two terms of service as president of the Home Builders Association of Knoxville and service as president and life director of Home Builders Association of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he is also Lifetime Director of the National Association of Home Builders, a board member of the Tennessee Housing Development Association, and an inductee into the Tennessee Home Builders Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mike and Marquita Stevens are exemplary citizens whose commitment to helping others through volunteerism is representative of the Volunteer State, and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mike and Marquita Stevens upon their receipt of Sertoma's Lifetime of Love Award, applaud their outstanding community leadership and tireless commitment to the well-being of others, and extend to them our warmest wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.